

# GAMBLING COURT INITIATIVE

## THE PROBLEM: GAMBLING ADDICTION

- 2-3% of the nation's population meets the criteria for a gambling disorder (4 million adults & 500,000 adolescents).
- 9.5% of the population is at risk for compulsive gambling.
- Gambling is the fastest growing addiction among adolescents.
- The highest access to the gaming industry in the nation resides in California.
- Conservative estimates place the annual cost to American taxpayers at over \$10,000 per pathological gambler.
- Gambling produces the same neurological reaction as drugs and alcohol.

## GAMBLING'S CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP TO CRIME

- The effects of gambling addiction cost society 6.9 billion dollars annually.
- Costs of gambling related crime are personal, financial and emotional- including bankruptcy, divorce, domestic violence, and theft.
- Gambling addicts commit 40% of white collar crime.
- A random survey of 400 gamblers anonymous members found 57% had stolen, on average, \$135,000 per person to finance their gambling addiction.

## THE SOLUTION: GAMBLING COURT

- Gambling court has the highest proven method in reducing recidivism.
- Restitution to victims is a requirement of gambling court, decreasing the devastating effects on both the families and society as a whole.
- The cost of gambling court is one sixth the cost of incarceration.
- Problem Solving Courts treat approximately 120,000 offenders annually with an unprecedented success rate.
- Of the first 100 gamblers to enter the gambling court, only one was convicted of another crime (not gambling related).

\*All statistics from National Council on Problem Gambling